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Dear JRT Community,

We have an ambitious vision for the future of food: sustainable, resilient, and people-centred food systems that nourish a growing global population, protect and restore our natural world, and provide fair and equitable livelihoods for food producers.

The events of this summer underscored the scale of the challenge we face to achieve this goal. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to deepen inequality and food insecurity globally, while the latest IPCC report confirmed that human activity is altering our planet irreversibly. Floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts all over the world highlight the impacts of climate change are here.

Amid all this, we are grateful to the JRT community as it remains a source of inspiration, resilience, collaboration, and knowledge. From the work on [‘Repurposing Public Support to Food and Agriculture’](#) through the UN Food Systems Summit processes to the recently launched [Good Food Finance Network](#), we are reminded of the power of community to forge solutions to complex challenges. Many of our members have also participated in our [food producers survey](#), are submitting their [case studies](#), and engaging with us via social media. We want to continue hearing from you—to learn from your experiences and amplify them. Please keep sharing with us.

To show our gratitude, we have chosen the theme of community for this issue of the JRT newsletter. We will only be able to address the significant challenges facing our world if we are strengthened in our resolve to work together to overcome them.

Sincerely,
The Just Rural Transition Secretariat

You're invited to the JRT Community Dialogue

It's our pleasure to invite you to our upcoming Community Dialogue on 6 October.

[Register for the event and learn more here!](#)

Wednesday, 6 October

10:00-11:00 EDT | 15:00-16:00 BST | 16:00-15:00 CEST

This is an opportunity for all members of the Just Rural Transition community to come together, ask questions, exchange ideas and learn from each other. We will share an overview of our plans leading to COP26, present the **Policy Action Agenda for Transition to Sustainable Food & Agriculture**, and outline ways for members of the community to get involved.

We hope to see you there!

Policy Action

Momentum is rapidly building to repurpose public support of agriculture. Physicists describe momentum as a product of an object's mass and velocity. In JRT's case, this object is not a single organisation but an expanding community of thought leaders, food producers, policymakers, analysts, and researchers who together are reimagining how public money invested in food and agriculture can lead to outcomes that benefit both people and nature.

JRT Policy Action was thrilled to support the successful launch of a new report from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). **[A multi-billion-dollar opportunity – Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems](#)** was released on 16 September and offers solutions to repurpose agricultural support and enact healthier, more sustainable, equitable, and efficient food systems. Policymakers can use the report's six-step guide on how to rethink, repurpose, and reform agricultural producer support to help transform food systems and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 23 September, the UN held its long-awaited **Food Systems Summit**, which brought together Member States and constituencies around the world—including food producers, Indigenous Peoples, youth organisations, civil society, researchers, and the private sector. Among the Summit's many important themes were calls for just transitions and support for the agenda to repurpose public support to agriculture, **[reflected in statements](#)** from Tufts University, UNEP, the World Bank, and member states including Argentina and Brazil. It was a clear mandate for JRT's work, which we aim to carry through to COP26. To learn more about our plans for COP26, make sure you join us for our **[Community Dialogue](#)**.

In the runup to COP26, JRT Policy Action is inviting all civil society members of our

website and will be presented alongside a facilitated Q&A session at our upcoming [Community Dialogue](#). All endorsers will be presented at COP26 Nature Day, so we encourage you to [submit your statement of support here](#).

To learn more about our policy action work, please contact Christian Man, Policy Action Lead, at pac@merid.org.



“Technology now allows a farmer to reach policymakers and investors from the cab of their tractor, so there’s no longer any reason to have our voice missing.”

JRT Spotlight: Tyler Drewes

Increasing interest in soil as a potential climate solution has led policymakers and investors to the conclusion that farmers made millennia ago: soil care is vitally important to our planet. But as money flows into soil carbon sequestration techniques, how can we ensure that frontline practitioners are included equitably? In a recent JRT insight post, Tyler Drewes from Ohio, USA, gives the producer’s perspective on this rapidly growing interest in soil.

See the full blog in our [JRT Insight Post](#).

Investment Partnerships

An additional investment of \$300-350 billion a year is needed to drive global food systems transformation. Only by working as a community of investors—aligning investments to JRT values across the value chain—can we ensure a just rural transition.

To build community and raise ambition amongst financial institutions, governments, and corporates on food systems transformation, JRT assisted with the launch of the [Good Food Finance Network](#). A partnership of EAT Foundation, FAIRR, Food Systems for the Future, UNEP, and WBCSD (with ongoing support from JRT and other partners), the Network will ensure the implementation of the finance outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit, providing a single go-to platform for finance leaders to engage on food systems transformation. To learn more about the Good Food Finance Network, please contact

JRT Investment Partnerships also collaborated with the [Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative](#) to host a series of rice financing roundtables this September, working together to catalyse investment partnerships for sustainable rice. Rice feeds half the world's population every day, yet has a huge environmental footprint, meaning transitioning to more sustainable forms of production is essential to meeting both climate and livelihoods goals. The five region-specific roundtables brought together public and private sector actors with capital providers to instigate innovative financing partnerships in sustainable, equitable rice. The opening event on Vietnam was attended by over 50 participants from multiple sectors and included 20 speaking interventions.

For further details about our investment partnership work, please contact Victoria Crawford, Investment Partnerships Manager, at crawford@wbcsd.org.



“There is no silver bullet or blueprint solution for companies to follow, and this means there is no substitute or shortcut to hearing from farmers first-hand.”

JRT Spotlight: Cássio Kossatz

In our latest insight post, Cássio Kossatz from Ponta Grossa, Brazil, tells us about the role of business in sustainable food system transformation. He writes about the ecological and economic benefits of transitioning to sustainable methods of farming, and the recent emergence of new investment partnerships available to help other farmers adopt similar practices. Cássio shows that when discussing food systems, there's no substitute to hearing directly from farmers.

See the full blog in our [JRT Insight Post](#).

Land Tenure, Social Equity, and Inclusion

The JRT's value and belief in community is reflected in both process and outcome. We believe that we will only achieve a just rural transition by bringing together a community of diverse experiences, backgrounds, thought, and knowledge. We must ensure that our joint

inclusion aims to do both.

Through a collaborative process with our expert Working Group on Land Tenure, Social Equity, and Inclusion we launched our brief [**Land Tenure and a Just Rural Transition: Restoring Our Relationships to Land and Natural Resources**](#). This piece synthesizes the rich research and evidence of our community members and showcases positive case studies of where progress on this issue is already being made, making the case for why land and natural resource tenure must be the foundation for a just rural transition. We are currently scoping opportunities for building on this evidence base and expanding our activities in 2022. If you would like to join our Working Group in shaping this work, please contact [**Hanna Khalil**](#).

For further details about our land tenure, social equity, and inclusion work, please contact Hanna Khalil at [**hkhalil@merid.org**](mailto:hkhalil@merid.org).

Community Updates

As our community continues to grow, we are proud to be a platform for all of the diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences that JRT has come to represent. We're particularly pleased to share new and exciting updates from our community within our [**Knowledge Hub**](#), where you can discover cutting-edge research, analysis, and tools to help enable food system transformation and support the Sustainable Development Goals.

In September, we celebrated the launch of our new [**Case Study Library**](#)! We'll be stacking the virtual shelves of our library with cases that serve to document and amplify stories from businesses, civil society, and governments that are tackling socioeconomic, environmental, and climate challenges in a way that prioritises fair processes and just outcomes for food producers.

Do you have an experience that illustrates an equitable or sustainable food system transition? We would love to feature your case study, so [**please submit it here!**](#)

We are excited to announce that JRT is supporting the launch of the [**COP26 Resilience Hub**](#). We will be co-leading the food and agriculture theme alongside Fundación Avina, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) to showcase evidence-based and people-centered solutions for equitable food system transformation. The Resilience Hub will put a focus on resilience, adaptation, and inclusion, connecting to global audiences through a virtual and physical space in the Blue Zone. Be sure to follow JRT on our [**social channels**](#) to learn the latest updates.

Remember to register for our Community Dialogue on 6 October!

The [**JRT Vision Statement**](#) remains open for endorsement by governments and other key stakeholders. Endorsers will join our growing JRT community to promote learning, forge new partnerships, and build momentum for just rural transitions around the world.

Stay in touch



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